

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winterer *et al.* in view of Kang and Chen *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites that the protective member is formed of a fluorine gel. This feature is supported at page 7, lines 4 and 5. The volume of the fluorine gel changes little with changes in temperature and helps to prevent breakage of the wire. This feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references. Therefore, the combination of Winterer *et al.*, Kang and Chen *et al.* fails to meet the terms of claim 1, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

As for claim 4, the applicants believe that the examiner made a mistake by including claim 4 in this rejection. Note that claim 4 depends on claim 3. Claim 3 was not included in the group of claims rejected in this rejection, but claim 4 was included. Therefore, the limitations of claim 3 that are incorporated in claim 4 were not treated in this rejection. In other words, the combination of Winterer *et al.*, Kang and Chen *et al.* do not show the circuit recited in claim 3 and included in claim 4 by dependency. Therefore, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winterer *et al.* in view of Kang and Chen *et al.* and further in view of Mizuno. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and is thus considered to be patentable based on the reasons given above with respect to its base claim.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400